



Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC



2022, No. 03

March 2022

A Fox Hunt demonstration.

Bill Craft, KD2HIQ

Travis Few, N9EOD a relatively new member of SARC, provided a demonstration of a Fox hunt at the Mission San Jose Park. The last Sunday of February's weather was a little "nippy" but it was otherwise a beautiful sunny spring day.

Mission San Jose park 1

Travis, N9EOD brought a couple of "Foxes" he built and a clever homebuilt yagi tape measure antenna as well as several HT VHF radios to use.

A fox hunt transmitter, typically referred to as a fox, is a radio transmitter usually playing a looped message that is hidden with the intention of being found using radio direction finding techniques and equipment. They are typically meant for members of a club to find and contests are held to see who can be the first to find the fox.



Meeting March 10, 2022 will be 7 PM at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216, (210) 251-2602 .



Lloyd, KF5ZHW brought his own home brew yagi and a few radios to demo.

Travis, N9EOD has provided a link to more info to build antenna & foxes.

[Fox Hunting - N9EOD's Page \(https://n9eod.com/fox-hunting/\)](https://n9eod.com/fox-hunting/)

All in all, it was a very informative demo on Foxes and hunting. Sometime we can consider having a SARC hunt in the future.



SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB

PRESIDENT'S RADIOGRAM

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
03	R		N5YBG		San Antonio, TX		March 2022
TO							

Hello Fellow Hams!

Rosendo is still recovering from some health challenges. Otherwise things are starting to get back to normal after 2 years of Covid. VE testing is back up and running and it is good to see Pat Knight, AD5BR, back in the command chair.

Looks like Radio Fiesta is shaping up well. The report from Bill Craft, KD2HIQ shows:

Tables are being sold-

Eventbrite is now open for admission tickets.

ARRL sections leaders have agreed to do ARES & ARRL forum-

DX Check is going to attend.

All Seminars speakers have been filled.

ARRL – handouts ordered & received

A night owl, I've been checking out 40 Meter SSB after midnight. Heard several stations from Europe as far east as Slovenia and a few from South America and worked a few at 5:9 strength using a G5RV Junior wire antenna. As I recall from Field Day, 40 meters shuts down around 2 or 3 AM and based on my last time on, that still happens. The bands are starting to open up, let the fun begin.

Good DX

Jim Neff, WJ4M, for Rosendo Guzman – N5YBG

Bexar Wire

Published monthly by:



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President, San Antonio Radio Club
Jimmie Neff, WJ4M
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The due date for articles is the **Monday** before the first **Thursday** of the month

San Antonio Radio Club

Meeting Minutes

7:00 p. m., February 10, 2022

Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd., San Antonio, TX 78216

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm

Introductions by Club Vice President, Lloyd Swartz KF5ZHW

Presentation by club member Bob Rodriguez on DB - Decibels (emphasis on guidance for new hams)

Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting

There being no changes, additions, or deletions, minutes were approved without objection by unanimous consent.

Officer Reports:

President – Absent, recovering from illness.

Acting President/Vice President – At Lloyd Swartz's KF5ZHW request, Bill Craft provided update on Club President.

Secretary – Jack Bannin N5JLB – Minutes from club meetings can be found at w5sc.org website, in the Newsletters section.

Treasurer – Jon April, KI5CSK – No report.

Newsletter Editor – Jimmie Neff absent. Bill Craft reported the February Bexar Wire newsletter was sent via email.

Webmaster – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ – Provided website update.

Membership – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ – 60% of members have renewed so far. 78 paid members, 1 free member, 21 family members, 45 ARRL members. Total membership: 100. Three new members: KI5TDU, K4JPT, KI5TJW.

Chairman of the Board Report – Harold Fleischer, AE5AS

Reported he has been working with the landlord of the club's Schertz Storage Site, Linda Bruno, on SK storage space. Orally, we have agreed to double our space to 16' x 16'. Price is yet unknown, but he expects it will be roughly double at \$600 per year. She is clearing space now and will send a revised lease. Chairman will review the lease, then ask the Board to approve the lease. Next, the Board will need to revise the annual budget to account for the increased cost and to fund up to 5 sets of storage shelves like those the Field Day Committee has. He intends to get this done in February 2022.

Education and Training – David Finell N7LRY – Last week, received invitation to provide information about ham radio and the International Space Station (ISS). If anyone wishes to help, contact David Finell.

Executive –No Report. No Board activity since last meeting.

Emergency Communications – JC Smith N5RXS: No Report

Field Day – Joe Bruno W5AUQ – paperwork for Field Day 2022 to be submitted to Shavano Park in next 30 days

Finance and Review – Paul Guido N5IUT – No Report

JOTA – John Douglas W5NZK – No Report. Will be active later this year.

Centennial Committee – Tom O'Brien AB5XZ – No swag sales since last meeting

Radio Fiesta – Bill Craft KD2HIQ – Next: June 17, 18 2022. Tables are being sold through Eventbrite. Notices have been sent out. So far, 51 tables sold of 139 available. To sign up for a table, go to w5sc.org and follow the link.

Nominating – Inactive until next fall.

Silent Key Committee –Rodney Brown AA5RB – Completed inventory of items in warehouse. Over 22,000 items inventoried. Items not yet ready for sale to the community. He provided information about the SK process to attendees. Guidance for hams on how to prepare for their own SK is available at w5sc.org, including inventorying, marking, tracking.

VE Team – Pat Knight AD5BR

VE session scheduled, with the regular \$15 exam session fee, at 10 AM Saturday morning, February 26, 2022, inside at:

Leon Valley Public Library 6425
Evers Rd.
Leon Valley, TX 78238

Please contact hamtest@gmail.com for more information and to pre-register for the session. Pre-registration is required. Masks are not required, but please wear one to help protect everyone around you.

The FCC is NOT yet collecting the new additional \$35 Amateur license and upgrade fee. It is now expected to go into effect in 2022, but the FCC should give us 90 days' notice before it goes into effect.

Old Business (Motions carried over from previous meetings) - None

New Business – None

Announcements for the Good of Amateur Radio

Harold Fleisher: Last month, he introduced the highly affordable Baofeng GT-5R VHF/UHF Hand Transceiver. He promised to report back on programming the radio. He reported he successfully programmed it with Chirp and made a contact via a repeater.

Lloyd Swartz – Bike race upcoming that could use help with amateur radio operators as communicators along the route.

Richard Elder: ARRL membership information provided for new hams, encouraging membership.

A free presentation by Steven Cerwin about antennas will become available at a time to be determined. His book was offered for sale.

Reminder: Tech Talk Wednesdays

Meeting Adjournment @ 8:33 PM



Volunteer Examiners at Work



This is the February 2022 Bexar Wire VE Team report.

We will have a VE session, with the regular \$15 exam session fee, at 10 AM Saturday morning, February 26, 2022, inside at:

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6425 Evers Rd.
Leon Valley, TX 78238

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<https://www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fee>

Thank you to Benny Martinez NU5P for all his help while I have been recovering.

73,
Pat Knight AD5BR

210-273-5927 iPhone

Revelations of a Fox Jim Neff (WJ4M)

Fox hunting, per Bill Craft's leadoff article above, can be a sport and in places like China it is a cross-country footrace kind of sport. It is also called "rabbit hunting" or just hidden transmitter hunting. The ultimate goal is to train hams in direction finding. It is a useful skill for several reasons. One is to find sources of interference. If you can zero in on the source, sometimes there is a good fix. Another has to do with finding downed aircraft in remote areas. Airplanes have Emergency Location Transmitters (ELT) that go off in case of a crash. Some modern VHF/UHF rigs receive aircraft frequencies.

Equipment can be as simple as a hand-held with a rubber duck antenna. Point the antenna until you detect a null and that is the direction of the fox. It helps to have some indication of signal strength. Most common tools include a receiver and directional, hand-held yagi antennas with between 2 and whatever-you-can-carry elements. Ultimately one ham had an electronic direction-finder with phased antennas on his car roof. . Another important thing to have is a good map of the area and a compass. If your map has an erasable finish you can use markers to plot lines looking for an intersection. Once at the place where lines intersect, your eyes became almost as important as antennas.

No matter the complexity of the equipment, anyone can win. I've seen guys with rubber duck antennas out-do people with sophisticated direction-finding systems.

The club in Northern Virginia where I lived, Woodbridge Wireless, INC, was very active in contesting and held recurring fox hunts. The rule was the winner of a fox hunt became the fox for the next one. There was competition to see just how elusive the fox could be. This led to some really creative ways to both disguise the radio signal and disguise the fox. You had to physically identify the fox to win.

Typically all participants would meet at a starting point where rules were rehearsed. Then the "fox" would head out to its lair followed by hunters who would fan out to their preferred starting points. At a preset time the fox would start transmitting for one minute, or 30 seconds at intervals of 5 minutes or more and would continue until all hunters had found the fox. Then maybe you'd party or picnic. It was usual for the fox (or club) to provide refreshments for the successful hunters.

One member was almost legendary for his elusive ways. He once loaded a railroad track for an antenna. I'm sure the railroad appreciated it. The signal seemed to come from multiple directions. He was found. Another time he disguised himself as an old woman, wearing a dress and shawl, sitting on a park bench with a hand-held radio disguised as well. Hunters walked right by him without realizing what he was doing. He was eventually found but had trouble living that one down!

In my case, I paired with one of the club's best hunters once. We won and the next hunt we set off with the crowd only to double back to the starting place, under a water tower. It was winter. We varied the strength of the signal going from a mobile rig to a hand-held with a dummy load antenna to confuse the hunters. Changing signal strength was a good way to hide the fox. No one could figure how close they were. The down side was we were too well hidden. No one had ever hidden at the starting point before. It took a long time to be found during which I almost froze to death in the Virginia winter. At least I thought I was going to freeze to death. I decided not to do any more winter fox hunting.

Fox hunting can be a lot of fun, good exercise, frustrating and a good way to expose the population to amateur radio. They wonder what these crazy guys and gals are doing running around pointing antennas. Then we can explain how we hunt furry critters with radios.

Newsletter March - addition

A special thanks to Jeremy Polk, KG5AUL for donating a few MFJ items including:

MFJ-9017, MFJ-9420x, and MFJ-971.

While Jeremy is not a SARC member he reached out to Richard Elder to donate his no longer needed equipment. Richard put him in touch with the Silent key committee, however it was not a Silent Key event. Rodney Brown took the donations for the club at the February meeting.

The SK Committee will evaluate the equipment, put a price on it, then off it for sale to club members. If it doesn't sell it will be available at Radio Fiesta this June.

NOTICE:

FCC rules for RF Exposure changed effective May 3, 2021

- Categorical exemption based on emitted power per band listed in §97.13(c) – but note hams were still liable for overexposure
- After May 3, 2021 – Any new station or modified station must complete and save an RF Exposure Assessment should one be asked for by the FCC
- After May 3, 2023 – Any unmodified station existing on May 2, 2021 must have a completed assessment saved

On our website we have an assessment tool to help you complete this task.

[W5sc.org/links/RF-Exposure Assessment tool](http://W5sc.org/links/RF-Exposure%20Assessment%20tool)

Steve Cerwin will do a presentation on this subject at the May Meeting.

Trading Post

Did you know we have a TRADING POST classified section on our website?

<https://w5sc.org/classifieds/> Yes, and it's FREE for members to use. Items are listed for 30 days by default, but can be extended by request to webmaster.

Does it work? Yes most have sold everything posted. However, remember your audience...Hams. So, will your car or boat sell here? Maybe not, but your antenna or tower will. Since we are not having Radio Fiesta in January, you can post and sell your stuff for FREE. Recommendations, add picture, manufacturer, model number in description and of course contact info and price.

Silent Key Committee (From web master, Bill Craft, KD2HIQ)

The web site now has a silent key page [<https://w5sc.org/silent-key/>] that provides information about thinking ahead and providing forms to document what you have.

SARC does not directly buy any SK equipment, we provide a service to help loved ones dispose of equipment. The service consists of information, consulting and possibly disposal of equipment by donation.

We encourage you to plan ahead and make those hard decisions ahead of time so those who are left don't end up dumping your equipment in the trash. Not everyone plans ahead, most us try to ignore the fact that at some point our health may fail or we may be called to meet our maker.

The goal is to help fellow hams and their families deal with this in their time of need. They do not have to be members of SARC for us to help. We offer our services to the ham community to benefit other hams and their families.

The committee can be reached by emailing SilentKey@w5sc.org



SARC has had a Groups.io. Its name is saradioclub.

If you haven't signed up for group.io, you should. Groups.io is our primary email messaging method to all club members. It is FREE for all members.

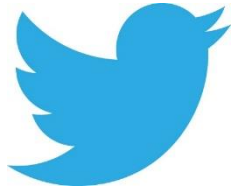
Several members have asked where are the notices, schedules and codes for Zoom meetings?

1. The groups.io calendar has a schedule of Zoom meetings and access codes.
2. The calendar can be accessed directly from the club web site <https://w5sc.org/events-calendar/> NOTE: it is the same groups.io calendar.

The saradioclub Group.io is being used to publicize SARC business meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes. Members of the saradioclub Group.io can and have asked each other technical questions or sought assistance.

The saradioclub Group.io is a closed group. To become a member, go to saradioclub.groups.io. (You may need to have a Groups.io account.) You will then need to select *Apply for membership in this group*. This generates a message. SARC members can expect approval to join the saradioclub Group.io in probably less than 24 hours.

SARC Tweets



Reminder: there are two active Twitter accounts for the San Antonio Radio Club. They are @SARadioClub and @ARadioFiesta.

The @SARadioClub is being used to publicize SARC meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes.

When work again commences the @ARadioFiesta will be used.

SARC members are encouraged to follow both Twitter accounts.

SARC Facebook



There is a San Antonio Radio Club – SARC (@saradioclub) Facebook Page.

The newsletter editor is making posts about SARC meetings and other activities. Any Officer, Committee Chairperson, or member who believes that they have information that should be posted to this page should contact the newsletter editor using the contact information for the newsletter editor on page 2 of this newsletter.

SARC members are encouraged to follow this Facebook Pa

SARC SLACK



There is a San Antonio Radio Club Slack team – w5sc.slack.com.

Slack teams are meant to foster communication between team members. Paul Guido, N5IUT, has established the w5sc.slack.com team for SARC. He has also established some channels. Think of the channels as topical areas.

To join send an email to Paul Guido, N5IUT, at radioteacher@gmail.com. In actuality, any team member already a part of the w5sc.slack.com can invite you, but Paul is known to be on it.

SARC has a website:

w5sc.org

Webmaster: Bill Craft KD2HIQ
Billc851@gmail.com
210-233-8863

Amateur Radio License Classes

For more information, contact:
David Finell, N7LRY
Instructor

SARC Meeting Dates for 2022

January 13, 2022
February 10, 2022
March 10, 2022
April 14, 2022
May 12, 2022
June 9, 2022
July 14, 2022
August 11, 2022
September 8, 2022
October 13, 2022
November 10, 2022
December – No meeting

Meetings are normally held at Blanco BBQ,
13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216
at 7:00 p. m. Room is available at 6:00 p.
m. for supper

License Testing Dates for 2022

The VE Team will schedule tests as sites become available. Go to Hamtest@gmail.com if you want to schedule a test.

Times and locations along with required document information can be found on SARC's website.

SARC does all of its licensing testing as a part of ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) organization so all of the Volunteer Examiners in SARC are duly authorized Volunteer Examiners of ARRL's VEC.

Radio Fiesta 2022

June 17-18, 2022
Radio Fiesta 2022 has been moved from the previous January time frame to June..

JOTA

Club members participated in JOTA and JOTI the largest Scouting event in the world at McGimsey Scout Park with the Alamo Area BSA on Saturday October 16th. Volunteers set up several stations including mobile installations and allowed scouts to contact stations as far away as England.

Emergency Communications

If you are interested in emergency communications, contact:
JC Smith N5RXS

Field Day 2022

FD 2021 was great, FD 2022 is coming sooner than you'd think!

Where SARC proves they are an eating group with a radio problem.